

REMARKS

The active claims in this case are claims 31 and 37-40.

In the Office Action, it was noted that claims 37 and 38 contain sequences that are not identified by SEQ ID NOs. Claims 37 and 38 are amended to recite a SEQ. ID. NO. in lieu of reciting the actual sequence.

The office action notes that the specification must also identify the SEQ ID NOs. This amendment was earlier provided in Applicant's Response to Notice to Comply and Amendment dated December 20, 2001. See page 2 of the Response where page 52, line 2 and page 53, line 3 of the specification is amended to include reference to SEQ ID NOs. 1 and 2.

A marked up version of the claim amendments is attached. A copy of the Notice to Comply is also attached hereto.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Deposit Account No. 01-2508/11362.0025.DVUS03.

Respectfully submitted,


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MARKED-UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

31. A process for the detection of HIV-3 retrovirus or of its RNA in a biological liquid or tissue, characterized by contacting nucleic acids contained in said biological liquid or tissue with a DNA probe containing at least 360 contiguous sequences corresponding to the genomic RNA of HIV-3 retrovirus under stringent hybridization conditions, washing the hybrid formed with a solution preserving said stringent conditions, and detecting the hybrid formed.

37. The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe comprises SEQ. ID. NO: 1 is:

10	20	30	40	50	60
<u>CCCATGGATT</u>	<u>TGAAGATACA</u>	<u>CATAAAAGAAA</u>	<u>TACTGATGTG</u>	<u>GAAGTTTGAT</u>	<u>AGATCTCTAG</u>
70	80	90	100	110	120
<u>GCAACACCCA</u>	<u>TGTTGCTATG</u>	<u>ATAACTCACCC</u>	<u>CAGAGCTCTT</u>	<u>CCAGAAGGAC</u>	<u>TAAAAAACTGCG</u>
130	140	150	160	170	180
<u>TGACCTGAAG</u>	<u>ATTGCTGACA</u>	<u>CTGTGGAACCT</u>	<u>TTCCAGCAGAA</u>	<u>GAATGCTGAC</u>	<u>ACTGCCGGGGA</u>
190	200	210	220	230	240
<u>CTTTCCAGTG</u>	<u>GGAGGGACAG</u>	<u>GGGGCGGTT</u>	<u>GGGGAGTGGC</u>	<u>TAACCCTGAG</u>	<u>AAGCTGCATA</u>
250	260	270	280	290	300
<u>TAAGCAGCCG</u>	<u>CTTTCTGCTT</u>	<u>GTACCGGGTC</u>	<u>TCGGTTAGAG</u>	<u>GACCAGGTCT</u>	<u>GAGCCCCGGGA</u>
310	320	330	340	350	360
<u>GCTCCCTGGC</u>	<u>CTCTAGCTGA</u>	<u>ACCCCGCTCGT</u>	<u>TAACCGCTCAA</u>	<u>TAAAGCTTGC</u>	<u>CTTGACTGAG</u>

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or the complement thereof.

38. (Amended)The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe comprises SEQ. ID. NO: 2 is:

10	20	30	40	50	60
<u>AACATGGGAA</u>	<u>ACGCATTGAG</u>	<u>AAAAGGTAAA</u>	<u>TTTGAGGGAT</u>	<u>GGGCAGCAGT</u>	<u>AAGAGAAAGA</u>
70	80	90	100	110	120
<u>ATGAGAAGAA</u>	<u>CTAGAACTTT</u>	<u>CCCTGAGTCT</u>	<u>GAACCATGCC</u>	<u>CACCTGGAGT</u>	<u>AGGACACAGATC</u>
130	140	150	160	170	180
<u>TCCAGGGAAAT</u>	<u>TAGCAGCTAG</u>	<u>AGGAGGGATA</u>	<u>CCAAGTTCCC</u>	<u>ATAACTCCTCA</u>	<u>AAACAATGCA</u>
190	200	210	220	230	240
<u>GCCCTTGGAT</u>	<u>TCCTAGAAAG</u>	<u>TCACCAAGAG</u>	<u>GAAGAAGTAG</u>	<u>GTTTTCCAGT</u>	<u>ACGCACCTCAA</u>
250	260	270	280	290	300
<u>GTGCCCTCTAA</u>	<u>GGCCAATGAC</u>	<u>CTATAAAGGA</u>	<u>GCATTTGACC</u>	<u>TCAGCTTCTT</u>	<u>TTTAAAAGAA</u>

310 320 330 340 350 360
AAGGGAGGAC TCGGAACGGTT AATTTACTCC CATAAAAGAG CAGAAAATCCT CGATCTTGG

GTGTATAA

or the complement thereof.

39. The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe corresponds to the nucleotide sequence coding for proteins p12, p16 or p25 of the HIV-3 retrovirus or the complement thereof.

40. The process of claim 31 wherein the DNA probe corresponds to the nucleotide sequence coding for glycoproteins gp41 or gp120 of the HIV-3 retrovirus or the complement thereof.